

We Claim:

1. A method of operating a program-controlled household appliance, which comprises:

storing a set of program sequences in a memory and indicating the program sequences when required;

permanently storing a set of programs specific to language regions in the memory;

individually selecting and activating at least one of the programs with an external program selector having selector positions;

permanently assigning each of the selector positions to at least one of the programs;

providing additional functions for manipulation of a program selected by the program selector;

selecting a desired indicating language by input manipulation; and

making available an associated set of programs specific to language regions for selection by the program selector when an indicating language is selected.

2. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises providing the set of programs specific to language regions with corresponding user information.
3. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises selecting the indicating language with a selector switch.
4. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises, after selecting the indicating language, permanently assigning each position of the program selector a program specific to a language region and permanently assigning each program a set of user information items specific to a language region.
5. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises providing the indicating language selecting step as a reversible indicating language selecting step.
6. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises reversing the indicating language selecting step after selecting the desired indicating language by input manipulation.
7. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises separately selecting the programs specific to countries and the user information specific to languages from one another.

8. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises acknowledging the language selection with an indicating element.

9. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises acknowledging the selected indicating language with an indication of an internationally intelligible symbol.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the symbol is at least one of a letter and a word in the selected language.

11. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises indicating at least one of an operating state and a program sequence with one of internationally customary symbols and terms customary in the selected language, the symbols and terms being permanently associated with the program.

12. A method of operating a program-controlled household appliance with a set of program sequences stored in a memory and indicated when required, with an external program selector, by which programs are individually selected and activated, each position of the program selector being permanently assigned a program, and with additional functions for manipulation of a selected program, which comprises:

permanently storing a set of programs specific to language regions in the memory;

selecting a desired indicating language by input manipulation; and

making available an associated set of programs specific to language regions for selection by the program selector when an indicating language is selected.

13. In a program-controlled household appliance, a control panel comprising:

a memory storing a set of program sequences;

a controller connected to said memory and programmed to execute said program sequences and indicate said program sequences;

an external program selector having selector positions, said program selector connected to said controller for individually selecting and activating said programs, each of said selector positions being permanently assigned to one of said programs;

functional units for manipulating a selected one of said programs;

an indicating area having:

program and function selection elements;

informational elements for informing a user about a selection of said programs and said functional units; and

a display as an indicating element for indicating respective ones of said programs and parameters of said programs;

said memory storing a set of programs, from which at least two different ones of said programs can be called up specifically for language regions; and

operator control elements functionally linked to a command control of said controller for a selection of languages and programs specific to at least one of language regions and user information.

14. The household appliance according to claim 13, wherein said display indicates the selected language.

15. The household appliance according to claim 13, wherein:

said external program selector is a rotary selector having a number of positions for selecting said programs; and

each of said positions is assigned an indicating element displaying an alphanumeric indication.

16. The household appliance according to claim 15, wherein said indicating element is a single display on which an assigned program is indicated according to a position of said rotary selector.

17. The household appliance according to claim 16, wherein the indication of said program on said display contains therein individual parameters of a selected one of said programs.